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ABSTRACT

The report presents results of a computer summary of Sacramento City Unified School District data on high school level dropouts for the four school years from 1980 to 1984. The district dropout rate fluctuated mildly from 1980-83; from 1982-83 to 1983-84, however, there was a drastic decline in the dropout rates. Each regular high school showed a decrease in the number and rate of dropouts during the 1983-84 school year. Possible reasons include the following: (1) schools now consider the dropout issue of priority concern; and (2) close follow-up procedures on truancy and absenteeism are being employed by the school site personnel. Independent study schools showed a greater dropout rate than traditional high schools. Ninth graders have less tendency to drop out than do tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. In 1983-84, however, more ninth graders were dropouts, but there was a significant decrease in the dropout rate of twelfth graders. More males drop out than females, but for the years 1980-84, the percentage of females who dropped out increased, while that of males decreased. A greater percentage of dropouts were non-Hispanic whites (40.2 percent), followed by Blacks (24.7 percent), then Hispanics (23.8 percent), Asians (10.2 percent), and American Indians or Alaskans (1.1 percent). (PS)

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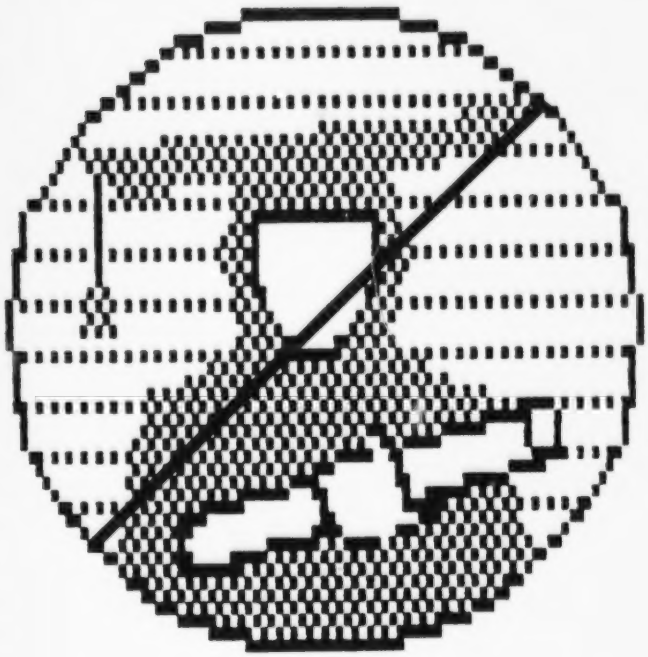
DROPOUTS 1980-1984



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SUMMARY REPORT

(Revised)

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SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

August 23, 1985

Administrative and Evaluation Services Office — No. 4
Series: 1985-86 — (Revised)
Information Summary: SUMMARY OF DROPOUT MEASUREMENT, 1980-84 — (4/10/86)

In November, 1984, a district-wide multi-year (1980-83) status report on high school level dropouts was presented to the Executive Staff and Board of Education.

In May, 1985, a computer summary of data for the 1983-84 school year was made available. A draft summary of the past four years (1980-84) shows the following:

TABLE I

District Dropout Rates (1980-84)

1980-81	12.5%
1981-82	19.8%
1982-83	17.2%
1983-84	9.3%

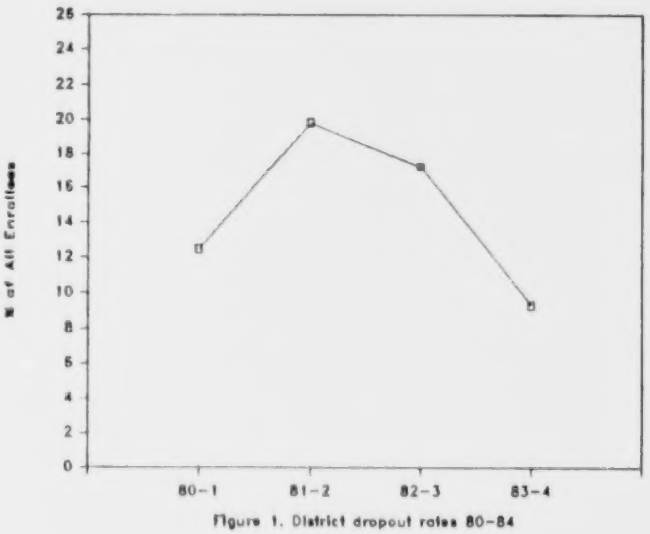

Figure 1. District dropout rates 80-84

The district dropout rate fluctuated mildly from 1980-83; from 1982-83 to 1983-84 there was a drastic change in the dropout rates. A closer study of events during these years should throw more light on the causes.

Dropouts by Individual School

During 1980-84, individual schools reflected the following number of total enrollees, number, and percentage of dropouts: (See pg. 2, Table 2)

TABLE 2

ENROLLMENTS AND PERCENTAGES OF DROPOUTS BY INDIVIDUAL HIGH SCHOOLS (1980-1984)

School	1980-81			1981-82			1982-83			1983-84		
	Total No. Enrolled	Total No. Dropouts	Percentage	Total No. Enrolled	Total No. Dropouts	Percentage	Total No. Enrolled	Total No. Dropouts	Percentage	Total No. Enrolled	Total No. Dropouts	Percentage
C. K. McClatchy	2110	90	4.0	2219	204	9.2	2282	218	9.6	2128	110	5.2
Hiram Johnson	2556	259	10.0	3116	306	9.8	3294	343	10.4	2853	197	6.9
Hiram Johnson West Campus	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	423	14	3.3
John F. Kennedy	2510	136	5.0	2462	381	15.5	2704	152	5.6	2509	86	3.4
Luther Burbank	2380	152	6.0	2451	231	9.4	2386	295	12.4	2131	136	6.4
Sacramento	2285	154	7.0	2336	216	9.3	2432	215	8.8	2171	150	6.9
American Legion	784	257	33.0	841	193	23	755	307	40.7	566	235	41.5
American Legion Ind. Study	-----	------	-----	377	161	42.7	480	58	12.1	350	167	47.7
Argonaut	730	114	16.0	633	214	33.8	539	143	26.5	391	85	21.7
Argonaut Ind. Study	583	171	29.0	483	243	50.3	481	208	43.2	346	112	32.4
*APPROXIMATE TOTAL DISTRICT	10,690	1333	12.5	10,883	2149	19.8	11,306	1939	17.2	13868	1292	9.3

*Sum of school totals does not equal district total because of intradistrict transfers.

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As indicated above, each regular high school showed a decrease in the number and rate of dropouts during the 1983-84 school year. Speculations are that:

1. Schools now consider the dropout issue of priority concern,
2. Close follow-up procedures are being employed by the school site personnel on truancy and absenteeism.

According to these data, the Independent Study schools have a greater dropout rate than do the traditional high schools. John F. Kennedy and Hiram Johnson West Campus have the lowest dropout rates (3.43% and 3.31% respectively) and the remaining high schools have either a 5% or 6% dropout rate. For the 1983-84 period, American Legion had a dropout rate of 40%, while Argonaut had a dropout rate of 26.5%.

Percentage of Dropouts by Grade

Except for the year 1983-84, ninth graders had less tendency to dropout than the 10th, 11th and 12th graders. In 1983-84, the summary data and graph below indicate that more of the 9th graders were dropouts. Also, there was a significant decrease in the dropout rate of 12th graders. Further study should throw more light on the cause of these trends.

TABLE 3

Percentage of Dropouts by Grade

Grade	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84
9*	8.3	15.3	11.8	27.9
10	39.1	22.9	25.8	26.6
11	29.0	36.1	32.3	26.8
12	18.0	24.3	30.1	18.5

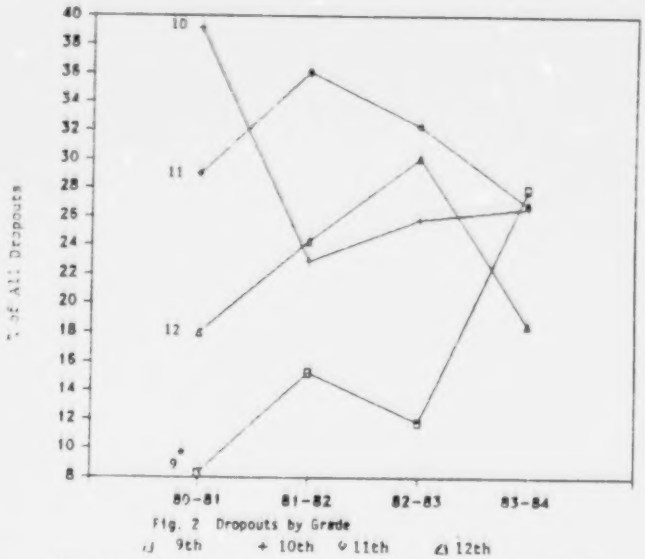

Fig. 2 Dropouts by Grade

9th + 10th 11th 12th

*Did not include 9th grade students who were attending jr high school during this year.

Dropouts by Sex

Results indicate that more males drop out of school than females; however, the percentage of females who dropped out of school in the last 4 years (1980-84) has increased, while that of males has decreased. (See pg. 4, Table 4 and Fig. 3)

TABLE 4

Percentage of District Dropouts by Sex and Year

	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84
Male	56.1	55.3	53.6	52.7
Female	43.9	44.7	46.4	47.3

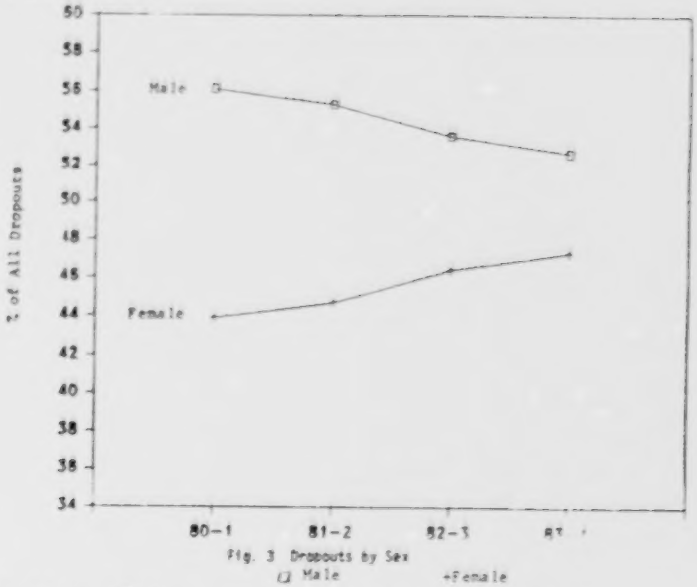

Fig. 3 Dropouts by Sex
□ Male +Female

Dropouts by Ethnicity

The percent of total dropouts from 1980-84 by ethnic group indicates that a greater percentage were white (Non-Hispanic). For example, data for 1983-84 indicate that of all dropouts, 40.2% were White, followed by Blacks (24.7%), then Hispanics (23.8%), Asians (10.2%), and American Indians or Alaskans (1.1%). The total number of dropouts for the 1983-84 school year was 1,292.

The data in Table 5 represent the ethnic percentage of the total dropout population.

Table 6 shows the percentage of dropouts within each ethnic group for the 1980-81 and 1983-84 school years. Data for the other years are not available.

TABLE 5

% of Total Dropouts by Ethnicity and Year

	80-81	81-82	82-83	83-84
American Indian	2.1	2.7	1.6	1.1
Alaskan Native	-	-	-	-
Asian	5.2	6.8	10.1	10.2
Black	28.6	29.2	25.1	24.7
Hispanic	27.7	23.7	23.1	23.8
White (Non-Hispanic)	36.5	37.4	40.1	40.2

TABLE 6

% of Ethnic Dropouts Within Each Ethnic Group						
	1980-81			1983-84		
	Total No. Enrolled	Dropouts	%	Total No. Enrolled	Dropouts	%
American Indian	154	28	18	137	14	10
Alaskan Native	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian	1,623	69	04	2,431	132	05
Black	2,661	381	14	3,236	319	10
Hispanic	1,857	369	20	2,223	308	14
White (Non-Hispanic)	4,395	486	11	5,838	519	09

The dropout issue is one of the major concerns of educators and legislators throughout the country today. Millions of dollars are being spent to identify potential dropouts, to prevent dropouts, and to discover effective solutions and alternatives to the dropout problem.

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